

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17443

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: IF ANYBODY IS LISTENING, MRS. GANDHI IS STILL TALKING

REF: NEW DELHI 17363

1. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI CARRIED ON HER BARRAGE OF CRITICISM OF THE "EXTERNAL THREAT" AGAIN DECEMBER 31 AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE IN CHANDIGARH. ACCORDING TO WIRESERVICE REPORTS, SHE WARNED THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN AGENTS, WHOSE MENTORS ABROAD WERE LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESUME THEIR MACHINATIONS IN INDIA. INDIA'S FREEDOM, SHE SAID WAS THREATENED TODAY AS NEVER BEFORE.

2. REFERRING TO CHILE, SHE SAID IT WAS CLAIMED THERE WAS ONLY SOME PROPAGANDA FROM OUTSIDE AND THE WHOLE OPERATION HAD BEEN CONDUCTED BY LOCAL CITIZENS. THESE LOCAL PEOPLE WERE JUST DUMMIES, SHE SAID, AND IN FACT IT "WAS A KIND OF DIRECT INTERVENTION." "WE HAVE TO SEE THAT SUCH DUMMIES DO NOT REMAIN IN OUR COUNTRY. MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT THE ACTIVITIES

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OF SOME OF THESE BIG POWERS HAD OF LATE NOT BEEN PRESENT IN

INDIA, BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THEY HAD GIVEN THEM UP. IN FACT, THEY WERE DELIBERATELY "WAITING FOR THE CONGRESS OR THE GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT A MISTAKE. THEN THEY WILL BARE THEIR CLAWS AND STRIKE." MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE EVERY INDIAN UNDERSTAND THE DESIGNS OF THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY. "TODAY IF YOU TAKE UP ANY PAPER OF AMERICA, ENGLAND OR FRANCE, THERE IS A STORY BY THEIR OWN PEOPLE AS TO HOW THEY PLANNED THE OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. THEY ARE THEMSELVES TELLING THE WORLD HOW THEY ORGANIZED COUPS IN COUNTRIES WHICH REFUSED TO LISTEN TO THEIR ADVICE." WHAT WORRIED THE PM MOST WAS NOT THE OPPOSITION'S AGITATION IN INDIA BUT THE SUPPORT FOR THIS FROM ABROAD. THIS SUPPORT WAS NOT ORDINARY BUT "SUBSTANTIAL." THE BIG POWERS, SHE SAID, "BEGIN WITH BUILDING UP PRESSURES TO FRIGHTEN US INTO CHANGING OUR POLICY. AND IF WE DON'T DO THAT, THEY WITHDRAW TEMPORARILY AND LOOK FOR A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HIT BACK." THE PROOF OF INTERFERENCE OF BIG POWERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS THERE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE. IT WAS NOW FOR THESE POWERS TO PROVE THEY WERE NOT MAKING SUCH ATTEMPTS.

3. MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT THE NEWSPAPERS OF THESE FOREIGN POWERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY PLANTED THEIR MEN IN VARIOUS PROFESSIONS LIKE JOURNALISM AND AMONG INTELLECTUALS TO WORK AGAINST LAWFULLY ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS AND OVERTHROW THEM WHEN THEY BECAME INCONVENIENT TO THEM. "A SIMILAR SITUATION WAS DEVELOPING IN OUR COUNTRY ALSO." RECALLING HER EARLIER CRITICISM OF FOREIGN POWERS' ACTIVITIES IN INDIA AND THE CALL FOR PROOF WHICH HAD BEEN MADE OF HER, SHE ASKED "DOES IT REQUIRE ANY PROOF TODAY? IT IS BEFORE YOU AND THE REST OF THE WORLD TO SEE AND JUDGE WHETHER IT IS NOT TRUE THAT A PARTICULAR AGITATION DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS RECEIVED SUPPORT NOT ONLY FROM SOME SECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO FROM FOREIGN PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION." THOSE FORCES MAKING EFFORTS TO CREATE INSTABILITY IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAD THOUGHT THEY WOULD SUCCEED IN INDIA ALSO. "IF YOU LOOK BACK, YOU WILL FIND SOME STRANGE COINCIDENCES. THEY HAD THOUGHT OF A PATTERN TO CREATE INSTABILITY IN ONE COUNTRY AFTER ANOTHER."

4. MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT AS LONG AS SHE WAS ALIVE, NO ONE
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WOULD BE ABLE TO WEAKEN INDIA. "BUT I AM NOT GOING TO LIVE FOREVER. I KNOW THE PATH I HAVE CHOSEN IS THE CORRECT ONE. POOR AND WEAKER SECTIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WILL NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO DEVIATE FROM THIS PATH."

5. HAPPY NEW YEAR*
SAXBE

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